

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 810

By Hawk

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Rusty H. Christian of Greenville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the untimely death of Staff Sergeant Rusty H. Christian, a courageous member of the United States Army who gave his life in the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS, following in the patriotic tradition for which our nation's finest sons and daughters are renowned, Sergeant Christian was a brave and honorable member of 2nd Battalion, 1st Special Forces Group from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Christian lost his life while conducting combat operations in Oruzgan province, Afghanistan, on January 28, 2010; he was twenty-four years of age; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Christian, a Green Beret and Special Forces soldier who was stationed at Camp Cobra in Afghanistan, did not shrink from serving in combat, believing in the justice of the cause to protect our national security and liberty; and

WHEREAS, a native of Greeneville, Tennessee, Rusty Christian graduated from Greeneville High School in 2004, where he excelled in baseball and football; he also was an avid drummer, performing as a member of local rock group Bell Tower Band; and

WHEREAS, he proudly enlisted in the U. S. Army shortly after graduating from high school and would have marked six years of valiant service to his nation this summer; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Christian enjoyed the loving companionship of his wife, Amber Christian, and he was the proud father of a daughter, Taylor, who celebrated her third birthday on January 26, 2010, and a son, Gavin, who will turn one on February 26, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Sergeant Christian is also survived by his mother, Donna Ball; his step-father, Jim Ball; and his brother, Aaron Christian; and

WHEREAS, Rusty Christian's dedication to excellence in the military and his love of family, his fellow soldiers, and his country are exemplified in his sacrifice of life itself in defense of all that he held dear and stand as enduring examples of all the characteristics that have ensured the continued freedom of our nation and the preservation of its ideals over the course of our history; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Staff Sergeant Rusty Christian, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Staff Sergeant Rusty H. Christian, a man of impeccable character and limitless courage who stalwartly committed himself to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Army.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Sergeant Christian.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.